

Site: Herculaneum Lead
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5/16/03
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Update Number 5

HERCULANEUM LEAD SMELTER SITE Lead Removal

Herculaneum, Missouri

May 2003

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has produced this Update to keep you abreast of site activities, cleanup progress and address your concerns. Our goal is to provide an overview of the site, the problems found, the actions we have taken to address your concerns, as well as future plans.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

2002 Herculaneum Blood Lead Screening Results

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), in cooperation with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), recently released the results of blood lead testing conducted in Herculaneum, Missouri in 2002. Highlights follow:

- Three hundred forty (340) people were tested in calendar year 2002. This consisted of 58 children less than 6 years of age, 129 children between the ages of 6 and 17 years, and 153 adults age 18 years or older.

What's New?



Updating Mailing List

We're updating the Herculaneum Lead Smelter Site mailing list. Would you like to be added or removed from the mailing list? Are you receiving information from EPA, but your name is misspelled? Are you receiving more than one copy of EPA's fact sheets or the CAG's yellow post cards? If so, please call EPA's toll-free number: 1-800-223-0425.



Herculaneum Community Advisory Group

The Herculaneum Community Advisory Group's first Quarterly Update is enclosed with this issue.

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SUPERFUND RECORDS

- Fourteen (14) percent (8 out of 58) of Herculaneum children tested in 2002 had elevated blood lead levels, compared with 28 percent (33 of 118) of children tested in 2001.
- Data for children less than 6 years old living closest to the smelter (east of Highway 61/Commercial Boulevard) show 17 percent of the children tested had elevated blood lead levels in 2002, compared with 45 percent of those tested in 2001.
- Although fewer persons were tested in 2002 (340 people) than in 2001 (935), the data seem to indicate that less lead exposure occurred in 2002 than in 2001.
- The average blood lead level in Herculaneum children less than six years old decreased from 8.0 µg/dl (micrograms per deciliter) in 2001 to 6.4 µg/dl in 2002.

DHSS is working with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to review the 2002 blood lead data and publish a formal written document called a health consultation. This will include a summary of the data, the department's conclusions based on the review of the data, and a statement of recommendations. Our news release contains the information listed above and more. If you would

like a copy of the news release, contact the DHSS, Section for Environmental Public Health at 1-573-751-6160 or toll free 1-866-628-9891.

MS and ALS Prevalence Study: Need Your Input

As part of the beginning stages of a study looking at the occurrences of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease) in Herculaneum and all of Jefferson County, information is being collected from Herculaneum residents. If you or someone you know in your community was diagnosed with MS or ALS and who have lived in Herculaneum at anytime within the past 5 years, please call Dennis Diehl at the Jefferson County Health Department 636-789-3372 or Dr. Joe Malone at DHSS, Office of Epidemiology, 1-573-751-6128.

Exposure Investigation for Arsenic and Cadmium Summer 2003 Need Participants Living Within ½ Mile of Smelter

The ATSDR and the DHSS will be conducting an Arsenic and Cadmium Exposure Investigation (EI) in Herculaneum this spring and summer.

This EI will measure cadmium levels in urine of residents and determine the cadmium, arsenic, and lead concentrations in locally grown vegetables. In addition, because

residents have expressed concerns about their current arsenic exposure, testing of arsenic in urine will be offered.

A November 2002 health consultation written by DHSS and ATSDR concluded that there was not enough information available to determine if past exposure to cadmium from air, soil, and dust was a health hazard. In addition, no data was available to determine if eating vegetables grown in local gardens possibly containing cadmium, lead and arsenic would be a potential health hazard. After reviewing current available data of arsenic levels in air, soil and dust, it has been determined that arsenic does not pose a health hazard. However, testing of arsenic in urine will help address community concerns and verify and support the health consultation conclusion that current arsenic levels do not pose a public health hazard.

The results of this exposure investigation cannot be used to predict the future occurrence of disease. However, the results will enable the health agencies to determine if public health actions are needed to reduce exposure and may assist in determining a focus for future studies.

ATSDR and DHSS representatives will attend the May 20, 2003 Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) meeting to discuss the EI and recruit participants. In addition, letters explaining the EI will be delivered door-to-door to all the homes within ½ mile of the smelter in order to recruit participants. A maximum of 60 residents living

within ½ mile of the smelter will be offered urine testing. Not all participants will receive both cadmium and arsenic urine testing. Vegetable samples will be collected from gardens at homes within ½ mile of the smelter. Green leafy vegetables such as lettuce, spinach and broccoli and root vegetables such as beets, carrots and potatoes are needed.

In addition to living within ½ mile of the smelter, there are specific eligibility criteria for participating in the arsenic and/or cadmium urine testing. DHSS staff will call people interested in participating to verify their eligibility and schedule appointments. All sampling will occur at the participant's home.

To find out more about the EI, attend the May 20 CAG meeting or call DHSS staff Lori Harris-Franklin, Rachelle Kuster or Gale Carlson toll free at 1-866-628-9891.

Results of Herculaneum Community Needs Assessment Survey

In October 2002, the DHSS conducted a survey of Herculaneum residents. The purpose of the Herculaneum Community Needs Assessment was to help DHSS plan future health education activities in Herculaneum. This survey consisted of six questions asking about concerns of Herculaneum residents and issues discussed during Herculaneum CAG meetings. Specific chemicals of concern were lead, cadmium and arsenic. The top

three issues of concern were health, economic (primarily property values) and issues related to soils in residential yards. An additional concern was the stigmatization of the community related to negative publicity about Herculaneum. The results of this report can be obtained from the DHSS, Section for Environmental Public Health at 1-573-751-6160 or toll free 1-866-628-9891. If you would like to work with the DHSS or have ideas about future educational efforts, please call Lorena Anderson at the phone numbers listed above.

Free Blood Lead Testing

If you live in Herculaneum, you or your child can have your blood tested free of charge for lead at the Jefferson County Health Department.

The DHSS encourage people living in Herculaneum, especially children less than 6 years old, to have their blood tested for lead. For more information, call the Jefferson County Health Department at 636-789-3372 (Hillsboro office) or 636-282-1010 (Arnold branch office).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Revision of Doe Run Materials Handling and Transportation Plan:

EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources are requiring Doe Run to revise their Materials Handling and Transportation Plan and make changes in the way they transport and handle the lead ore concentrate being

delivered to the smelter. This effort is in response to occasional spill incidents, and rising lead dust loadings and concentrations observed on concentrate delivery truck routes. Changes in truck washing and street cleaning procedures should further reduce lead dust loadings and concentrations on street surfaces. EPA will continue to monitor lead dust levels in streets.

Yard Soil Monitoring

EPA continues to conduct soil sampling at a number of yards on a monthly schedule to monitor for changes in lead levels. To date, no trends in yard soil recontamination have been observed.

Yard Soil Replacements

Yard soil replacements started back up this spring with approximately 30 yards planned. Doe Run is required to replace yard soil at 60 residences this year. A new source of replacement soil with a lower clay content has been located and is being used. Mr. Dean Wilson of the local Agricultural Extension Office has been assisting with locating and testing replacement soil. He also has been consulted on a number of yards that have had difficulty with establishing grass. Mr. Wilson can be contacted at 636-797-5391 for consultation on the establishment and maintenance of lawns.

Home Interior Focus Group

The home interior focus group is scheduled to meet on the evening of May 29th to hear Dr. Sterling's response to additional questions raised at the previous focus group meeting. The meeting will be held at the Dr. Grey Music Room of the Herculaneum High School at 6:30 p.m. Herculaneum citizens are welcome.

Slag Pile

Doe Run is proposing to build a large berm around the slag pile capable of isolating the slag from a 500-year flood event.

Air Emissions

Ambient air monitoring results indicated that the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for lead (1.5 micrograms per cubic meter of air averaged over a calendar quarter) was met during the first three months (first calendar quarter) of the year. The area has met the lead standard for 9 consecutive months.

HERCULANEUM LEAD SMELTER SITE CONTACT LIST

If you have questions, please contact:

Health Information

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Denise Jordan-Izaguirre
1-913-551-1310

Site Information/Monitoring Programs

EPA Region 7

Bruce Morrison
Toll-free: 1-800-223-0425
Jim Silver
636-475-3926

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Gale Carlson
Toll-free: 1-866-628-9891
email: carlsg@dhss.state.mo.us

Site Information

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Dave Mosby
1-573-751-8629
Toll-free: 1-800-361-4827

Jefferson County Health Department

636-789-3372

Herculaneum Lead Smelter Site Community Advisory Group

636-475-3319

Primary Focus Group Contact

Hattie Thomas
EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
1-913-551-7003
Toll-free: 1-800-223-0425
email: thomas.hattie@epa.gov

Herculaneum Community Revitalization Initiative

Doug Sarno (Marasco Newton)
1-703-837-1197 or
djsarno@the perspectivesgroup.com

Loretta Hiner (Marasco Newton)
636-464-8112 or vhiner@hotmail.com

Bob Feild, EPA Region 7
1-913-551-7697 or feild.robert@epa.gov

Kerry Herndon, EPA Region 7
1-913-551-7286 or herndon.kerry@epa.gov

Herculaneum Community Advisory Group

Quarterly Update

(January - April 2003)

Purpose of CAG: Provides residents with a forum to express views, decide community priorities, make decisions, and to hear reports from agencies involved in lead contamination clean-up.

Meetings: CAG holds Action Group Meetings every 2nd Tuesday of the month - 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. CAG holds its large general meeting (when Agencies make their reports) every 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. usually in the Music Room of Herculaneum High School.

Attention - May 20, 2003 CAG Meeting: Doug Sarno, Community Convenor, will present a summary report about the community revitalization interviews.

Contacts: If anyone has any questions or would like to become involved, please call one of the members of the CAG Core Leadership Team.

Jim Kasten (636) 475-4336

Gerty O'Leary (636) 475-3310

Tim Myers (636) 475-3230

Leslie Warden (636) 479-3889

Things to Know

- ◆ CAG letter re: Wastewater Permit Certification sent to DNR
 - While some concerns remained, CAG recommended permit be issued for less than 5 year period
 - CAG stated it was important in the future to include CAG in permitting process
- ◆ University Outreach & Extension report on soil testing found that
 - In general replacement soil contained adequate nutrients
 - Recommended amount of clay for replacement soil is 30-32% (average clay content in Jefferson County is 40%)
 - Spring seeding more difficult than fall - takes two or three seasons to establish lawn

- ◆ EPA proposed two intermediary alternatives for slag pile remediation and the CAG recommended regrading or armoring slag pile surface.
- ◆ Doe Run to propose to EPA third long term alternative for slag pile remediation that would be 10 feet higher and meet 500-year flood standards.
- ◆ Jim Lanzafam to serve as Doe Run spokesperson at CAG meetings. The CAG requested that the Doe Run representative meet with any citizen who has a problem. Agency staff to be included in the small group discussion if desired.
- ◆ The CAG requested to attend quarterly Agency/Doe Run meetings. EPA denied permission as these meetings are considered negotiations.
- ◆ The CAG also requested that CAG members attend meetings hosted by Doe Run the day after CAG meetings. Doe Run denied this request as some members of the Herculaneum community already attend these meetings.

Ways to Get Involved

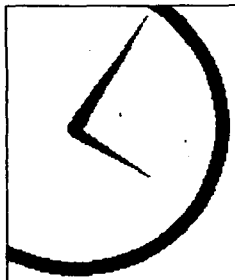
Questions about air quality can be addressed to Leanne Tippet, DNR Air Pollution Control Program - (573) 751-5817.

Impact of Buy-out Priority Focus Group meets every 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. - 196 Dunklin. Call Jo Ann Thompson (636) 479-3331.

To participate in Slag Pile Priority Focus Group, call Larry O'Leary (636) 475-3310.

The Jefferson County Health Department distributed the final report of the Herculaneum needs assessment. Community volunteers needed to work with the Department to create health education materials. Contact Loreena Anderson toll free at 800-392-0272.

University Extension will assist Soil Priority Focus Group determine how to grow vegetables in Herculaneum. Contact Dean Wilson (636) 797-5057.



The next meeting of the Herculaneum Lead
Smelter Community Advisory Group will be:

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

7 p.m.

**Robert Gray Music Room
Herculaneum High School
Herculaneum, Missouri**

**Herculaneum Lead
Smelter Site**

For more information call the CAG Core Team:

**Community Advisory
Group Meeting**

James Kasten

636-475-4336

Tim Myers

314-330-8893

Gerty O'Leary

636-727-2350

Leslie Warden

636-479-3889

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 7

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